

**Significance of the Settlement**

**Q.** Mr. President, is this an outright victory for the labor movement?

**The President.** I think it's a victory for the proposition that you can have a profitable, highly competitive company with good, solid labor relations providing good jobs and good benefits for the employees. That's what I think it's a victory for. It's not an outright victory if you mean it's also a defeat for UPS; I wouldn't characterize it that way. I think this company will go forward. It will do real well, and the workers will do well. And they've made some important agreements around the side about how they're going to work together to be even more productive and competitive, so I would say that it is a victory for the proposition that you can have good, strong labor relations and treat your employees well and make money in this economy of ours. That's what I wanted to prove from the time I became President, so I was very pleased by it.

**Q.** Mr. President, how much of an economic threat would there have been if this strike had not been resolved when it was, if it had gone on much longer?

**The President.** It's hard to say. That would depend upon something we'll never know, which is how quickly others could have absorbed the capacity. But it could have been very difficult for both the company and for its employees. So I think they were both advantaged by making the agreement they did before any irreparable harm was done to both sides. And that may well have been something they were thinking of.

**The President's Birthday**

**Q.** On a more personal note, sir, how does it feel to be another year older?

**The President.** Well, it feels good today. I've had a wonderful time here. I had a good day yesterday on the golf course, and this morning I got up, and Chelsea and I went jogging. That's the longest I've been able to go since I hurt myself. And the three of us are just going to spend the day reading and playing games and having fun with each other, and then we're going to go to a party tonight. So I feel very blessed, and I'm very fortunate to be here. And as far as I know, I'm in good health, and the country's doing

well. That's the most important thing of all. So I'm very happy today, and I have a lot to be thankful for.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:43 p.m. at the press pool holding area.

**Statement on the Tentative Settlement of the United Parcel Service Strike**

*August 19, 1997*

We have learned tonight that UPS and the Teamsters have reached a tentative settlement in their contract negotiations. I am pleased that the parties negotiated in good faith. Today's agreement represents their hard work and determination to reconcile their differences for the good of the company, its employees, and the customers they serve. The issues that were at the heart of their negotiations are important to our Nation's economic strength and to all Americans.

I want to especially thank my Secretary of Labor, Alexis Herman, who worked tirelessly with both sides to enable them to reach this tentative agreement.

**Proclamation 7017—Women's Equality Day, 1997**

*August 19, 1997*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Each year, on Women's Equality Day, we reflect on how far we have traveled on our journey to make America live up to the ideals of justice and equality articulated so powerfully in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Few constitutional amendments have affected that progress more profoundly than the 19th, which guarantees American women the right to vote.

Looking back from today's vantage point, where women hold positions of authority and responsibility at almost every level of government, it is hard to imagine that, for almost